

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26 of the First Extraordinary Session  
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mr. John Earl Wells on his selection as 1998-1999 National Distinguished Principal for the Tennessee Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize and commend our superlative educators who bring national attention to their school systems and have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this state's most precious natural resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Earl Wells is one such extraordinary educator, who has served with distinction as Principal of Crestview Elementary School since 1981; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wells was recently selected as the 1998-1999 National Distinguished Principal for the Tennessee Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, an honor most befitting his meritorious service to education and his devotion to the lives of the children at Crestview Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wells truly personifies the spirit of this prestigious award by inspiring all of us to imagine a better future and creating a better world by encouraging excellence in his students; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Covington and Tipton County have long recognized and appreciated Mr. Wells' excellence as an educator and role model for young people; he was

chosen as a Career Ladder III Principal in 1986 by the State Department of Education; he is Past-President of the Principal Study Council, and is currently serving on the State PSC Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Memphis State University in 1970, John Earl Wells began his illustrious career in molding young minds as a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher at Covington Elementary School, where he was the newspaper sponsor; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 Mr. Wells was promoted to Supervisor of Special Education and served in that important position until 1974, when he was deservedly appointed as Director of Special Education, a post he held prior to his present position; and

WHEREAS, nationally renowned as an expert in special education and principal leadership, Mr. Wells has served astutely on the Council for Exceptional Children, the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the Tennessee Association of Elementary School Principals; and

WHEREAS, after attending Union University, Mr. Wells served with distinction in the U.S. Air Force, the Intelligence Service and in office administration prior to his honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, John Earl faithfully serves the Lord as an active and devout member of the First Assembly of God, where he is an adult Sunday school teacher and member of the choir; he has also served as a member of the Church Deacon Board; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, John Earl Wells is most appreciative of the love, companionship, and support he receives from his wife, JoAnna, and their son, Jeremy; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely patient and giving person who motivates his faculty and students to reach their full potential, perhaps the greatest of all teaching gifts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wells is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish him and is tremendously admired by students and staff alike; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and friend, John Earl Wells is the perfect example of a person totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. John Earl Wells of Crestview Elementary School on being chosen as 1998-1999 National Distinguished Principal for the Tennessee Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, salute his expertise and dedication as an administrator, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.